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## **Sen. Van Woerkom touts agenda that is ‘Working Today For Michigan’s Tomorrow’**

**Lansing** – State Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom (R-Norton Shores) said he is looking forward to working on the Senate Republican’s 2004 agenda, titled “Working Today for Michigan’s Tomorrow.”

The bold legislative agenda focuses on creating jobs, strengthening families and continuing to improve the quality of Michigan schools while also bringing state spending in line with existing revenues.

“Our number one priority for Michigan's future is job growth,” Van Woerkom said. “Every Michigan resident should have job opportunities.”

“This is a bold and proactive caucus agenda, one based on Michigan’s priorities,” said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming. “This agenda makes it clear that Senate Republicans are going to work for what’s best for Michigan’s families, not what’s easiest for state government.”

The 2004 Senate Republican Caucus Agenda covers a broad range of topics and priorities, including:

- Improving Michigan’s competitiveness, leading to a healthier economy and more job opportunities;
- Protecting families from health threats, criminal predators and unfair financial burdens;
- Educating youth by stretching education dollars, promoting reform and accountability and ensuring Michigan’s children get the best education;
- Preserving Michigan’s beauty through common sense land-use regulations, promoting recycling and limiting out-of-state trash; and

(MORE)

- Building a healthy Michigan – in terms of residents and the economy – by lowering healthcare costs while increasing accessibility, reducing state spending, and continuing Senate oversight of government activities.

Van Woerkom said one of the first initiatives undertaken this year involves the upcoming announcement of JOBS: Phase II. JOBS – Job Opportunities for Business Success – is an action plan to spur job growth and economic investment. JOBS II picks up where JOBS left off at the end of last year. The goal is to position Michigan as quickly as possible to take advantage of the national economic recovery.

“Job development is best way to give Michigan’s economy a jumpstart,” Van Woerkom said. “We need to be proactive and provide employment opportunities for our residents.”

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